

Summer job experience will help you gain the background and skills needed for your future

Getting that Summer Job



Time to Search

Summer is fast approaching. It is time to plan for summer employment. For many students this may be the first time they have tried to get a job, in which case, this may seem a daunting task. Even those students who currently have a job may want to look for something different to further their work experience, or just as a change of pace.

Jobs Are Out There

Recently, the economy in Utah has begun to slow while the overall national economy seems to be in recession. In Utah, with unemployment at the low level of about 3.3 percent, jobs for teens this summer are available, especially in recreation and tourism, at retail stores and restaurants. As students finish the school year, many businesses plan on hiring these newly available workers.

Why Work My Summer Away?

With work we meet our financial goals—spending money for clothes, movies, or large future expenditures for college, a car, or vacation. Financial planners stress the importance of thinking long-term, learning to save for the future—whether for education, a major purchase, an emergency cushion, or for retirement.

Even if you don't need the money, summer job experience will help you gain the background and skills needed for your future. Valuable experience can also be obtained through volunteer work or internships. Lessons learned will set you up in important ways for your long-term career goals.

A Lifetime of Work

Every job you have is important—particularly your first job. No matter what type of employment you have, your first job will begin your employment history and provide experience with basic job skills. Summer job experiences help us learn about the world of work and how we might fit in. These jobs can help answer important questions. What kinds of employment do I enjoy? What are some of the skills I want to develop for the future? Are my educational and training goals in line with my career goals?

Teenagers and young adults have the chance to explore the world of work as they seek and obtain job experience during their summers. Temporary full-time or part-time summer employment allows you to try different types of work—jobs that are relatively easy or difficult, mentally or physically challenging, fun—or not.

Getting Started

Begin by letting all those around you know you want a job. Announce your intentions to your family, friends, neighbors and other acquaintances. This is called networking and is one of the best ways to get a line on a job. More often than not, job openings are not advertised extensively. People find many opportunities by word of mouth. In many cases employers prefer to hire a new worker based upon the recommendations of someone they trust.

Next, visit some businesses close to your home. If they accept applications, fill them out with care. There is of course, no place more convenient to work than in your own neighborhood. Now get on the Internet. Become familiar with the vast free resources on the Web to help job seekers.

When you go to a business to apply for work, remember to conduct yourself in a mature and responsible manner. This includes dressing appropriately. Dress, act, and speak in ways that help you feel positive and confident.

The Interview

Employers may not expect you to bring much work experience and education to an entry-level job, but they are looking for workers who are organized, flexible, and trainable. Show up for scheduled interviews ten minutes early. Review interviewing tips. Like any new experience, a little practice increases your chance of success.

Just Do It

The personal rewards of summer jobs, while not necessarily lucrative, can provide you with interesting and even fun experiences that will serve you well throughout your life. You can enjoy the process of lining up a job. With persistence, follow-through, and a positive attitude, you will be successful in your search. 📌

Internet Links for Your Job Search

- Just for Youth Employment Tips
<http://justforyouth.utah.gov/employment.htm>

- Utah's Career Connection
<http://careers.utah.gov/careers/>

- Tips for Teens—How to Get and Keep a Job
http://jobs.utah.gov/jobseeker/guides/02_77.pdf

- Job Seeker Guides
<http://jobs.utah.gov/jobseeker/guides/jstools.asp>

- Job and Career Resources for Teenagers
http://www.quintcareers.com/teen_jobs.html

- About.Com Teen Jobs
<http://jobsearch.about.com/cs/justforstudents/a/teenjobs.htm>

For a list of the occupations in the higher education occupations group, go to: <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/trendlines/marapr08/bachelorshigher.xls>

